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## **Newsletter - 1980-12-18**

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# NEWSLETTER

96-774

18 December 1980

Washington, D.C.

HURRICANE ALLEN AID DELAY. Hurricane Allen is long gone, but the problems caused by the disaster continue.

Ever since Allen struck I have been in frequent contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to urge speeding up of the processing of disaster aid applications.

One obstacle we have had to surmount is that in the first weeks after the disaster, FEMA received many more applications for assistance than had been anticipated and more staff had to be hired in a hurry to cope with the situation. Work is proceeding much faster now, but FEMA still is trying to catch up with the backlog of the first six weeks following the hurricane.

Recently I met in Denton with FEMA officials in an attempt to get even faster handling of hurricane disaster claims. Although four months have passed, many people still have heard nothing about their loans. Regrettably, the process of disbursing federal loans is a time-consuming one involving intensive checking of credit references and careful verification of losses.

— Another problem many of my constituents are concerned about is the fact that FEMA is ending rental assistance for many hurricane victims.

The stated purpose of the rental assistance was to provide temporary homes only and those receiving assistance were advised when they received the aid that they must search for permanent places to live. Now some are interpreting FEMA's move as throwing them out of their housing, but FEMA has stated that it will continue to assist certain families on a case by case, monthly basis. Those obtaining assistance will have to prove they are looking for permanent housing or show they can assume rental payments where they are currently housed.

Finding moderately priced rentals in South Texas is an arduous task and it is my hope that FEMA can continue to help those who direly need assistance.

\* \* \*

NEW HOUSE LEADERS. House partisans have selected the men they wish to lead them for the next two years of the 97th Congress in separate caucuses.

Massachusetts' Tip O'Neill and Texas' Jim Wright have retained their respective posts of House Speaker and Majority Leader while the current Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee --- Tom Foley of Washington state --- has been selected Majority Whip.

Meanwhile, Illinois' Robert Michel and Mississippi's Trent Lott havd been elected House Minority Leader and Minority Whip respectively.

As the ranking member of the House Committee on Agriculture, I was named Chairman of the Committee for the 97th Congress.

\* \* \*

RELIEF FOR SMALL ROYALTY OWNERS. Small royalty owners got relief recently with passage of a bill amending the Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act to let royalty owners apply for a 1980 income tax credit of \$1,000. This means approximately 80 percent of the 650,000 royalty owners in Texas will pay no windfall tax.

A large number of royalty owners are retirees living on fixed incomes in rural areas, farmers, and ranchers, who count on royalty money to keep their holdings. The windfall profit tax was not intended to financially burden these people, and we are glad to see this important piece of legislation win Congressional approval.

\* \* \*

BAKING SEASON BEGINS. With the passage of Thanksgiving and the advent of Christmas, the holiday baking season is well underway.

Your holiday table can become a more festive place with the mouth-watering aroma of an orange-pecan pie. Even though this recipe comes from the well known Red Apple Inn in Arkansas, it makes good use of our own Texas pecans and oranges.

#### Orange-Pecan Pie

1 cup light corn syrup  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup melted butter  
1 cup chopped Texas pecans  
1 tablespoon Texas orange juice  
1 tablespoon grated Texas orange rind  
3 eggs, beaten  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
several drops vanilla extract  
1 unbaked 9-inch pastry shell

Combine ingredients in a medium mixing bowl and mix well. Pour into pastry shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

\* \* \*

VISITORS FROM HOME this week were: Valentin de la Garza and Carmel Espiricueta of Mission.

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